

TAFT SCHOOL DISTRICT 90
1605 S. Washington Street
Lockport, Illinois 60441
March 26, 2026 @ 6:15 P.M.
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

President Lane called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. with the following members answering present: Bruss, Jelinek, Scanlan, Brzuszkiewicz, Colella, Lane
Also Present: Mr. James Calabrese
Members Absent: Strote

3. CLOSED SESSION

Motion made by Board member Colella and seconded by Jelinek at 6:15 p.m. to go into Closed Session for the purposes of:
(A) Student Issues; (B) Personnel-Resignations/Dismissal/Employment; (C) Litigation, (D) Legal Counsel, and (E) Review of Closed Minutes.

Discussion:

AYE: Bruss, Jelinek, Scanlan, Brzuszkiewicz, Colella, Lane

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Strote

Whereupon President Lane declared the motion carried

MOTION TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AT 7:05 p.m.

Motion made by Board member Jelinek and seconded by Scanlan

AYE: Jelinek, Scanlan, Brzuszkiewicz, Colella, Bruss, Lane

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Strote

Whereupon President Lane declared the motion carried

4. RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC: no one present to address the board.

5. COMMUNICATIONS:

Board Member updates: Lane wanted to mention that she thinks our building is looking good and is proud of the work that has been put into it. Jim D'Amico has passed away and she wanted to express how wonderful he was as a Taft Alum and community member. His continuous contributions to Taft will always be remembered.

6. COMMITTEE REPORT:

6.1. Finance Committee Recap-Lane reviewed the meeting held on 3/23/26

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Mr. Calabrese reviewed the FY26 amended budget timeline, discussion regarding the board goals and presentations was held. A memorandum of understanding of the change of Track to Spring Sport was reviewed as it's an action item to update the teachers' contract. Kindergarten roundup and whole school registration for next year will start on 4/16/26. Also reviewed the student handbook updates, with focus regarding cell phone usage for next year.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

8.1. It's recommended that the Board of Education approve the Regular Board meeting minutes of February 26, 2026.

8.2. It's recommended that the Board of Education approve the 1st Closed Session minutes of February 26, 2026.

Motion made by Board member Jelinek and seconded by Brzuszkiewicz to approve the minutes listed above.

Discussion:

AYE: Scanlan, Brzuszkiewicz, Colella, Bruss, Jelinek, Lane

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Strote

Whereupon President Lane declared the motion carried

9. CONSENT AGENDA –Action. Items may be removed from the consent agenda on the request of any one member. Items not removed may be adopted by general consent without debate. Removed items may be taken up either immediately after the consent agenda or placed later on the agenda at the discretion of the Board

Motions: It is recommended the Board of Education approve the consent agenda as presented.

9.1. Approve Treasurer’s Report

9.2. Authorize to pay bills/payroll

9.3. Accept Investment Report

9.4. It’s recommended that the Board of Education approve the 2026-2027 Student Handbook as presented

9.5. It’s recommended that the Board of Education approve the memorandum to the Teachers Contract regarding the change of Track to Spring Sport as presented.

9.6. It’s recommended that the Board of Education approve the contract renewal for vended meal services through Quest Food Management Services.

9.7. It’s recommended that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to amend the FY26 budget.

9.8. It’s recommended that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to prepare a tentative FY27 budget.

9.9. It’s recommended that the Board of Education approve the 2026-2027 school fees as presented

9.10.It’s recommended that the Board of Education approve the 2026-2027 calendar as presented.

9.11.It’s recommended that the Board of Education approve the additional Board meeting date of April 21, 2026 for Board training.

9.12.It’s recommended that the Board of Education approve the Spring Sport Stipend of \$1,236.00 to Pete Howard for the 2025-2026 school year.

9.13.It’s recommended that the Board of Education approve the Spring Sport Stipend of \$1,236.00 to Jan Gura for the 2025-2026 school year.

PERSONNEL REPORT:

9.14. It’s recommended that the Board of Education approve Nathan Krusinski as Treasurer starting April 1st, 2026 with an approved stipend of \$1,200.00

Motion made by Board member Scanlan and seconded by Bruss to approve the Consent agenda as presented above.

AYE: Brzuszkiewicz, Colella, Bruss, Jelinek, Scanlan, Lane

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Strote

Whereupon President Lane declared the motion carried

10. 2nd CLOSED SESSION –

Motion made by Board member Bruss and seconded by Brzuszkiewicz at 7:38 p.m. to go into Closed Session for the purposes of: (B) Personnel-Resignations/Dismissal/Employment

Discussion:

AYE: Bruss, Jelinek, Scanlan, Brzuszkiewicz, Colella, Lane

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Strote

Whereupon President Lane declared the motion carried

MOTION TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AT 7:59 p.m.

Motion made by Board member Colella and seconded by Brzuszkiewicz

AYE: Jelinek, Scanlan, Brzuszkiewicz, Colella, Bruss, Lane

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Strote

Whereupon President Lane declared the motion carried

11. ACTION ITEMS:

11.1. Motion made by Board member Scanlan and seconded by Brzuszkiewicz to approve the move from 1st year to 2nd year non-tenured contract renewal for Mrs. Carol Rinke for the 2026-2027 school year

Discussion:

AYE: Colella, Bruss, Jelinek, Scanlan, Brzuszkiewicz, Lane

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Strote

Whereupon President Lane declared the motion carried

11.2. Motion made by Board member Bruss and seconded by Brzuszkiewicz to approve the move from 2nd year to 3rd year non-tenured contract renewal for Ms. Jaelyn Smith for the 2026-2027 school year.

Discussion:

AYE: Bruss, Jelinek, Scanlan, Brzuszkiewicz, Colella, Lane

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Strote

Whereupon President Lane declared the motion carried

11.3. Motion made by Board member Bruss and seconded by Brzuszkiewicz to approve the move from 2nd year to 3rd year non-tenured contract renewal for Ms. Melissa Mattas for the 2026-2027 school year.

Discussion:

AYE:

NAY: Jelinek, Scanlan, Brzuszkiewicz, Colella, Bruss, Lane

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Strote

Whereupon President Lane declared the motion carried

11.4. Motion made by Board member Bruss and seconded by Jelinek to approve the tenured contract renewal for Mrs. Julie Chesser starting in the 2026-2027 school year.

Discussion:

AYE: Scanlan, Brzuszkiewicz, Colella, Bruss, Jelinek, Lane

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Strote

Whereupon President Lane declared the motion carried

11.5. Motion made by Board member Bruss and seconded by Colella to approve the tenured contract renewal for Mrs. Megan Fulkerson starting in the 2026-2027 school year

Discussion:

AYE: Brzuszkiewicz, Colella, Bruss, Jelinek, Scanlan, Lane

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Strote

Whereupon President Lane declared the motion carried

11.6. Motion made by Board member Scanlan and seconded by Bruss to approve the tenured contract renewal for Ms. Kim Rittenhouses starting in the 2026-2027 school year.

Discussion:

AYE: Colella, Bruss, Jelinek, Scanlan, Brzuszkiewicz, Lane

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Strote

Whereupon President Lane declared the motion carried

11.7. Motion made by Board member Jelinek and seconded by Colella to approve the tenured contract renewal for Mrs. Alicia Smorynski starting the 2026-2027 school year.

Discussion:

AYE: Bruss, Jelinek, Scanlan, Brzuszkiewicz, Colella, Lane

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Strote

Whereupon President Lane declared the motion carried

11.8. Motion made by Board member Bruss and seconded by Scanlan to approve tenured status for Mrs. Sarah Kelly starting in the 2026-2027 school year.

Discussion:

AYE: Jelinek, Scanlan, Brzuszkiewicz, Colella, Bruss, Lane

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Strote

Whereupon President Lane declared the motion carried

11.9. Motion made by Board member Colella and seconded by Brzuszkiewicz to approve the part-time non-tenured contract renewal for Mrs. Sara Sturm for the 2026-2027 school year

Discussion:

AYE: Scanlan, Brzuszkiewicz, Colella, Bruss, Jelinek, Lane

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Strote

Whereupon President Lane declared the motion carried

11.10. Motion made by Board member Bruss and seconded by Brzuszkiewicz to approve the FY26 Superintendent Evaluation as presented.

Discussion:

AYE: Brzuszkiewicz, Colella, Bruss, Jelinek, Scanlan, Lane

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Strote

Whereupon President Lane declared the motion carried

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Colella and seconded by Brzuszkiewicz to all adjourn at 8:05 PM

AYE: Brzuszkiewicz, Colella, Bruss, Jelinek, Scanlan, Lane

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Strote

Whereupon President Lane declared the motion carried



BOARD PRESIDENT

Nicole Lane



BOARD VICE PRESIDENT

Christine Jelinek

Recording Secretary: Melissa Lesniak